

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 2318 - SB 2391

March 9, 2016

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Removes the National Board for Certification of Hearing Instrument Sciences Examination as the accepted examination for licensure for the Council for Hearing Instruments Specialists. The Council is authorized to contract with other organizations to conduct examinations. Removes the Council's authority to waive the written examination for an individual who has successfully passed a written examination whose contents are acceptable to the Council.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

IMPACT TO COMMERCE OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (013145): Deletes and rewrites the bill such that the only substantive change is to establish that applicants to an apprentice license must only meet age and education requirements, and no longer are required to pass a state written and practical proficiency test.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Currently, the Council contracts with the International Hearing Society to provide its hearing instrument specialty licensure written exam, and the Council administers its own jurisprudence exam.
- An application for examination is required along with a non-refundable fee whether or not an individual receives a waiver from the Council to forego taking the written examination; therefore, no increase in examination fee revenue to the Council.
- The Council is currently authorized to contract with other testing organizations.

HB 2318 - SB 2391

- Any individual who seeks a license as an apprentice licensed hearing instrument specialist is currently required to first pass a state written and practical proficiency test to attain the license.
- This proposed legislation will allow an individual who has not taken the proficiency test who is at least 18 years of age and has an education equivalent to 2 years of accredited college level coursework to attain such license.
- This legislation will result in no significant increase in the number of apprentice licenses that are issued by the Council as removing the examination requirement is not assumed to solely incentivize an individual to become an apprentice licensed hearing instrument specialist.
- Further, the current examination requirement is assumed to not prevent a significant number of those individuals interested in obtaining an apprentice license from doing so.
- Any necessary rulemaking required of the Council can be accomplished during regularly scheduled Council meetings.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 4-29-121, all health related boards are required to be self-supporting over any two-year period. The Council for Hearing Instruments Specialists had surpluses of \$53,008 in FY13-14, \$47,665 in FY14-15, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$176,028 on June 30, 2015.

IMPACT TO COMMERCE WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

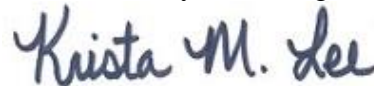
Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumption for the bill as amended:

- This legislation will have no significant impact on commerce or jobs in Tennessee.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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